YUKON child care BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 1997-MARCH 31, 1998

Yukon
Health and Social Services

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YUKON CHILD CARE BOARD
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April 1997 - March 31, 1998

June 22, 1998

Honorable Dave Sloan
Minister of Health and Social Services
Government of the Yukon
Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

Dear Mr. Sloan,

We are pleased to submit the 1997/98 Annual Report for your perusal.

This report covers all the activities and business of the board during the 1997-98 fiscal year as well all the mandates. We have also included a brief profile of each of the current board members.

We, the members, appreciate this opportunity to advise you on matters related to quality child care in the Yukon and look forward to continuing to work toward this end.

Sincerely,

Sandra Beckman

Sandra Beckman, Chair
Yukon Child Care Board

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

This year, it has been my honour to serve as Chair of the Yukon Child Care Board. My fellow board members are professionals dedicated to their field, committed to quality child care, and willing to work tirelessly to ensure continued improvements throughout Yukon child care. The members form a diverse group, representing various sectors in child care and the broader community and bring this expertise to the board table. All share the vision and importance of high quality care in the early years and understand that education of caregivers in this field is essential.

Each April, the board reviews and sets priorities for the next twelve months. This year, we felt a continued responsibility to advise the Minister on issues facing Yukon child care users and providers and to make recommendations that would improve services to all the children in child care.

The past year showed an increase in the number of licensed spaces, especially in the rural communities. Family Dayhomes are continuing to license and we are committed to offering support to all the new operators as well as more established centres and dayhomes. Subsidy clients have continued to increase and the number of subsidy appeals that the board heard had increased from the previous year.

I look forward to continued work with the other board members in 1998-99; concentrating on inclusive childcare and necessary supports in the Yukon Child Care community.

Sandra Beckman
Chair, Yukon Child Care Board

BOARD MEMBERS

Sandra Beckman
Chair

Sandra is presently the Instructor/Coordinator of the Early Childhood Development Program of Yukon College. She holds a Bachelor of Education, an Early Childhood Services Diploma and a Masters Degree in Child Care Administration. This year she presented workshops to the child care community in Toronto, Winnipeg and St. John's. She is currently serving on the Canadian Child Care Federation Board of Directors and the Steering Committee for the National Training Guidelines, co-sponsored by the Canadian Child Care Federation and The Association of Canadian Community Colleges.

Duane Aucoin

Duane is presently working in Teslin.
Duane resigned May 23, 1998.

Kathy Fredrickson

Kathy has worked professionally with and for children for sixteen years. In B.C., she began working with special needs children and teens in recreation programs and later was an Assistant Directoress for a Montessori Preschool and After School Program. After moving to the Yukon in 1989, Kathy was Director of the Faro Child Care Centre for a total of six years. She holds a Diploma in Therapeutic Recreation, a Diploma in Montessori Preschool Education and a Certificate in Early Childhood Education. Kathy has served as an Executive member of the Yukon Child Care Association. She has taught and facilitated many Early Childhood courses and workshops throughout the Territory.

Leanne Godwin

Trinke Zho Daycare Center, Dawson City.

Cheryle Grinde

Cheryle has an Early Childhood Development Diploma and has been actively involved in the child care field for the past eight years. She sat on the Faro Child Care Centre Board of Directors and is presently Director of Nlaye Ndasadaye Daycare in Granger. She is a past member of the Yukon Child Care Association and the Canadian Child Care Federation. Cherlye resigned from the board in November and moved to Calgary in December, 1997.

Diana Leas

Diana is presently a full time ECD student at Yukon College. However, she has been involved in and interested in child care and education for the last twenty six years. Her experiences include Preschool Coordinator and Daycare Manager for Kwanlin Dun First Nation, a Youth Service Worker 11 at the Young Offenders

Secure facility as well as other daycare. Diana has volunteered for a number of organizations including: Kwanlin First Nation Child Welfare Board, Young Offender's Facility, Judo Club and numerous school activities. Diana resigned from the board in April 03, 1998.

Danny Lewis

Danny was appointed to the YCCB on July 03, 1997 for a two year term. He works at Tree House Playschool in the School-age program. Danny completed his ECD Diploma at Yukon College in 1997. His future plans include a B.Ed with a specialty in the Primary Grades.

Sandra Logan

Sandra has operated a family day home in Whitehorse for the past six years. She holds a diploma in Business Administration and has almost completed her Early Childhood Development Diploma. Sandra has been involved with the Whitehorse Family Day Home group, has served two terms on the board and executive of the Yukon Child Care Association, and has served as the family day home representative for the President's Committee on Programming at Yukon College. Sandra is the mother of three children and has actively worked as a parent volunteer in her children's school. She resigned from the board in October 03, 1997.

Lynda Peters

Lynda has a Bachelor of Elementary Education and experience in both Head Start and Montessori programs. She is the owner/operator of a child care facility that focuses on language development and the inclusion of children with special needs. Linda has been involved in many community organizations and has also raised nine children. Her term with the board expired in November 2, 1997.

Irene Szabla

Irene believes that it is important for all children to feel that they are welcomed and supported in their communities. Quality child care is one of the most effective ways of promoting inclusion. Irene brings a Yukon perspective, having lived in Dawson City for six years and travelled extensively throughout the Yukon. Irene has been the Executive Director of the Child Development Centre since February 1993.

Ex-Officio Members

Dave Sloan, Minister of Health and Social Services
Anne Sheffield, Director, Family and Children's Services
Debbie Mauch, Supervisor, Child Care Services Unit

HISTORY OF THE YUKON CHILD CARE BOARD

The Yukon Child Care Board was established in May 1990, following legislative approval of the Child Care Act. The establishment of the YCCB under the Act was in response to Yukoners expressed desire to have an ***independent*** body appointed to hear appeals, advise the Minister and provide input into services provided for children.

The first Board members were appointed in November 1990. A list of candidates were selected from various child care groups, licensed child care service providers, Yukon First Nations and parents.

The make-up of the Board provides an opportunity for rural and urban child care stakeholders to advise the government on issues and concerns related to the child care field. The members of the Board bring a wide range of expertise, life experience and commitment to the board and are responsive to the field's and parents' concern for provision of high quality child care services.

Since 1990, there have been many positive changes for Yukon childcare providers and users. However, as long as there are children and families who require child care, the board will continue to work to improve the quality and affordability of child care services in the Yukon.

MANDATE OF THE YUKON CHILD CARE BOARD

The Yukon Child Care Board's mandate, as set out in the Child Care Act is to:

- encourage the development and support of child care services that meet the needs of parents and children in the Yukon;
- make recommendations to the Minister of Health and Social Services on any matter pertaining to child care;
- review any policies, programs, services or administrative procedures of any Yukon government departments in matters pertaining to child care;
- advise on the planning, development, standards, co-ordination and evaluation of child care services in the Yukon;
- hear appeals from people denied a license by the Director of Family and Children's Services to operate a child care service;
- hear appeals concerning licenses which have been suspended or revoked, or limited by certain terms and conditions; and
- hear appeals from parents who have been denied a child care subsidy.

BUSINESS OF THE YUKON CHILD CARE BOARD

As an administrative body, the Yukon Child Care Board has been given a mandate of three functions: to advise, to investigate and to adjudicate.

ADVISORY

The Board's advisory function involves advising the Minister of Health and Social Services on any matters pertaining to child care which includes the planning, development of standards, co-ordination and evaluation of child care services.

During the 1997-98 year, the Board advised the Minister on the following issues:

a) **Child Care Subsidy Program** - Subsidies have remained the same for a number of years, and Board members have heard from various stakeholders there is a need to increase child care subsidies. The Board reviewed the Subsidy program and made recommendations to the Minister to help the program become more cost effective.

b) **Education/Training** - The Board has advised the Minister about the training needs and educational levels required for compliance to the Child Care Centre and Family Day Home Regulations. Two members of the Board sit on the Equivalency committee, which reviews and makes suggestions on the training level requirements. The Board is also reviewing the educational levels paid under the Direct Operating Grant.

b) **Direct Operating Grant** - The Board continued to review and advise the Minister on the Direct Operating Grant, looking at the priority needs of centres and family day homes at this time.

c) **Supported Child Care** - Child care providers who care for child with special needs, need supports (financial, staffing and educational). The Board has a sub-committee which has developed a Mission Statement and Vision Satement to forward to the Minister as well as childcare centers and family dayhomes throughout the Yukon. The long term goal of this sub-committee is to guarantee the provision of quality services to ***all*** children and families, including those with a variety of special needs.

d) **Rural Child Care** - Centres and family day homes in our smaller communities face issues and difficulties that are far different from the larger centres. Education and training of staff is one of the largest hurdles for child care providers in these smaller communities. The Yukon Child Care Board has identified communication among rural centre directors as another key issue.. The Yukon Child Care Board gave some financial assisstance to the Child Development Centre, which hosted an extremely successful weekend workshop for Rural Directors in the fall of 1997.

e) **Yukon Child Care Board Membership -** The Board has advised the Minister of the need for additional members to fill some identified gaps. We feel strongly that it is necessary to have membership from a wide variety of stakeholders to ensure a balanced perspective on child care issues throughout the Yukon.

Future Development

As the Board continues to look both within the territory as well as nationally for information and material relevant to Yukon child care, immediate concentration will focus on:

a) Appeal Training for new and re-appointed board members

b) Review funding priorities for the Direct Operating Grant

c) Continued review of child care subsidy program

d) Supported Child Care

e) Continued support for rural child care

f) To provide input to the Department concerning the Policy Manual.

INVESTIGATIVE

In its investigative capacity, the Board's function is to review new and existing government policy, programs, services and administrative procedures with the ultimate goal of improving child care in the Yukon.

In order to provide input into government policies and coordination of services, the Board is kept abreast of child care issues by representation on many community child care committees and organizations. These include:

a) The Board is represented on the President's Committee on Programming for the Early Childhood Development Program at Yukon College. The Board continually provides input to the committee regarding the effects of the program on the child care community.

b) The Board participates on the Equivalency Committee, which looks at educational levels from other provinces and territories to determine equivalency for our levels, as indicated in the Child Care Centre and Family Day Home Regulations.

c) The Board is working with the Child Care Services Unit on revising the Policy Manual.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

The Board will continue to research both nationally and territorially, any material that may be pertinent to improving child care in the Yukon. Next fiscal year will focus on:

a) Continuing the review of the Child Care Subsidy Program.

b) Continued support and suggestions for the Supported Child Care Sub-Committee.

c) Continued support of the rural child care directors and staff.

d) review and priorize funding for the Direct Operating Grant.

ADJUDICATIVE

In this capacity, the Board is an independent body, referred to as a quasi-judicial body, and hears appeals under the Child Care Act. Appeals are heard when a license to operate a child care facility has been denied, when a license has been suspended, revoked or given certain terms and conditions, or when parents are denied a parent subsidy.

The Board heard six appeals during its last term. All appeals involved subsidy issues.

Appeal decisions are public information and are filed with the Yukon Law Library.

DEVELOPMENT FUTURE

This year had a particularly high turnover of board members, with the continuation of appointments early in the 1998 fiscal year. As new members have been appointed and the number of appeals increased in the past year, legal training in appeal hearings has been set as a high priority for the fall of 1998.

OTHER BUSINESS

.Yukon Child Care Board brochures have been distributed throughout the Yukon and we will continue to send them out with various Child Care Services Unit mailings. They will also continue to be distributed to Health Centres and First Nation offices in all the communities.

The Board has compiled a list of motions passed at meeting and will be reviewing them throughout the 1998-99 fiscal year to determine if action has been taken.

The Board has continued to compile a list of recommendations made to the Minister with regard to appeals, with plans to review them as well.

The number of appeals that the Board heard has increased.

MEETINGS

Under the Child Care Act, the Board is required to hold at least two meetings a year. The Board held six general meetings as well as several appeal committee meetings during the last fiscal year.

The dates of the general meetings are as follows:

May 30, 1997
September 05, 1997
October 17, 1997
December 3, 1997
February 17, 1998
March 23, 1998

FINANCIAL REPORT

	Budgeted Amount	Expenditure
Travel cost for out of Whitehorse members	$4,000.	$5880.
Honoraria for Board Members	$11,500.	$12,223.

FOCUS FOR 1998/99

The Yukon Child Care Board will focus on the following areas in the coming year:

- Appeal Training for all current board members
- continued support for the Supported Child Care sub-committee
- review the funding priorities for the Direct Operating Grant
- continued support for rural child care in the Yukon
- continued input on departmental policies, regulations and program changes with particular emphasis on assisting with the updating of the Policy Manual
- On-going review of the Child Care Subsidy Program with recommendations